

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 00535 041040Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 SCA-01 /081 W
-----041109Z 019738 /14

R 040854Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9558
INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USUN NEW YORK 402

UNCLAS GABORONE 0535

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652 N/A

TAGS PFOR, PINS, BC, RH

SUBJECT GOB SAYS RHODESIA ADMITS HOLDING FOUR BATSWANA

REF: GABORONE 123

1. GOB HAS ANNOUNCED THAT RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT NOW ADMITS
HOLDING FOUR BATSWANA ABDUCTED IN LATE 1976 BY RHODESIAN
SECURITY FORCES (REFTEL). THE FOUR ARE TO BE TRIED IN RHODESIAN
COURT LATER THIS MONTH FOR BEING "TERRORISTS". TEXT OF
PRESS RELEASE FROM OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AS FOLLOWS:

2. QTE: THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT,
FOLLOWING REPRESENTATIONS MADE THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL RED
CROSS THE RHODESIAN REGIME HAS ADMITTED HOLDING FOUR
BOTSWANA NATIONALS WHO WERE ABDUCTED BY THE REGIME S SECURITY
FORCES LATE LAST YEAR.

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EM QTE: IT WLL BE RECALLED THAT THE REGIME HAD IN THE PAST
REPEATEDLY DENIED THAT ITS FORCES HAD CROSSED INTO BOTSWANA
AND ABDUCTED BOTSWANA NATIONALS.

4. QTE: THE FOUR BATSWANA ARE DISANG MODIAKGOTA AND PRENYEN
NDLOVU OF MOROKA VILLAGE AND ABEL MAPHANE AND JOTHA BANGO OF
MAHATANE. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THESE MEN WILL APPEAR

BEFORE A SPECIAL COURT ON MARCH 21, 1977. THEY ARE ALL CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF WHITES AND POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OF WAR IN RHODESIA.

5. QTE: IN VIEW OF THE REPEATED STATEMENTS BY THE SMITH REGIME THAT IT IS ANXIOUS TO EASE THE TENSION BETWEEN RHODESIA AND BOTSWANA, THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT IS OF THE OPINION THAT A FIRST STEP IN THIS DIRECTION WOULD BE THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE AND REPATRIATION OF THE FOUR BATSWANA THAT WERE UNLAWFULLY ABDUCTED FROM THEIR HOMES IN BOTSWANA BY THE SMITH REGIME.

6. QTE: IN THE EVENT THAT THESE STATEMENTS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN USUAL PROPAGANDA, THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT HAS INSTRUCTED A FIRM OF ATTORNEYS TO ARRANGE LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR THE FOUR MEN AT THEIR TRIAL UNQTE.
NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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